

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their intention to air a flagrantly partisan show supporting Bush just before the election is as grossly unacceptable as if they were to air a program equally biased in favor of Kerry. This action shows graphically the problems of extreme media consolidation which currently exists. We get centrally dictated programs with little to no local input and a lack of true substantive news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. With gross consolidation this type of orchestrated exploitation and manipulation becomes easier than ever before. That means oversight and strictly enforced rules are vital to protect us from runaway broadcasting. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.